

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a custom look shutter assembly to fit an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) obtaining a collection of differently sized pre-formed louver assemblies varying in width from a minimum width to a maximum width and varying in height from a minimum height to a maximum height, each louver assembly having a top rail, a bottom rail, a first side rail, and a second side rail;

10 b) forming a frame assembly sized to fit the opening, the frame assembly having a panel opening;

c) selecting one of the pre-formed louver assemblies, the selected louver assembly being sized to be accommodated by the panel opening; and

15 d) coupling the selected louver assembly to the frame assembly at the panel opening to form a shutter assembly.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein before step (d), modifying the louver assembly by removing a portion of at least one of the top rail, the bottom rail, the first side rail, and
20 the second side rail of the selected louver assembly so that the louver assembly fits within the panel opening.

25 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising refinishing the at least one rail of the louver assembly having a removed portion.

30 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the collection of louver assemblies comprises at least 25 differently sized louver assemblies.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the minimum width of the louver assemblies is about 18";
and
the maximum width of the louver assemblies is about 72".

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the width interval is
from about 1/2" to about 5".

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the width interval is
10 from about 1/2" to about 1 1/2".

8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the minimum height of the louver assemblies is about 36";
and

15 the maximum height of the louver assemblies is about 72".

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the height interval is
from about 1/2" to about 5".

20 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the height interval is
from about 3" to about 4".

11. The method of claim 8 wherein up to about 2" is
removable from each of the top rail and the bottom rail of the
25 selected louver assembly.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein a frame assembly portion
is mountable over a custom window opening portion to alter the
size of the panel opening.

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13. A shutter assembly produced according to the method of claim 1.

14. A method of manufacturing a custom look shutter assembly to fit an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) obtaining a collection of differently sized pre-formed louver assemblies varying in width from a minimum width to a maximum width and varying in height from a minimum height to a maximum height, each louver assembly having a top rail, a bottom rail, a first side rail, and a second side rail;

10 b) manufacturing a plurality of frame stocks varying in width by a frame stock width interval up until a maximum width difference;

c) forming at least one of the plurality of frame stocks into a frame assembly sized to fit the opening, the frame assembly having a panel opening;

15 d) selecting one of the pre-formed louver assemblies, the selected louver assembly being sized to be accommodated by the panel opening; and

20 e) coupling the selected louver assembly to the frame assembly at the panel opening to form a shutter assembly.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the collection of louver assemblies comprises at least 25 differently sized louver assemblies.

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16. The method of claim 14 wherein:

the frame stock is at least one of L-shaped frame stock and Z-shaped frame stock;

30 the frame stock width interval is about 1/8"; and

the maximum width difference is about $3/4$ ".

17. The method of claim 14 wherein:

the frame stock is at least one of L-shaped frame stock and
5 Z-shaped frame stock;

the frame stock width interval is about $1/16$ "; and

the maximum width difference is about $3/4$ ".

18. A method for manufacturing window shutters for a
10 opening having custom dimensions, the method comprising:

a) manufacturing a plurality of louver assemblies varying
in width from a minimum width to a maximum width at a width
interval and varying in height from a minimum height to a
maximum height at a height interval, each louver assembly having
15 a top rail, a bottom rail, a first side rail and a second side
rail;

b) manufacturing a plurality of frame stocks varying in
width from a frame stock minimum width to a frame stock maximum
width at a frame stock width interval;

20 c) selecting one of the plurality of frame stocks;

d) forming a frame assembly mountable to the window
opening, the frame assembly having a panel opening with a width
and a height; and

e) selecting a louver assembly having a width and a
25 height about equal to or greater than the panel opening width
and the panel opening height.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising cutting the
top rail and the bottom rail of the selected louver assembly so

that the height of the louver assembly equals the height of the frame opening.

20. The method for manufacturing window shutters of claim
5 19 wherein the top and bottom portions of the louver assembly
are cut in equal portions.

21. The method for manufacturing window shutters of claim
20 further comprising refinishing the cut top and bottom rails
10 of the louver assembly.

22. A shutter assembly produced according to the method of
claim 18.

23. An electronic method for preparing a shutter assembly
15 for an opening, the method comprising:
receiving window opening dimensions from a user;
receiving a frame style selection from a user;
searching a database of information about a plurality of
20 louver assemblies and a plurality of frame stocks for at least
one frame stock and at least one louver assembly appropriate for
the received window opening dimensions; and
reporting appropriate frame stock and louver assembly
information to a user.

24. The electronic method of claim 23 further comprising:
receiving from the user a louver assembly style;
receiving from the user a window coverage amount; and
wherein the searching step further comprises searching the
30 database for at least one frame stock and at least one louver

assembly of the received louver assembly style appropriate for the received window opening dimensions minus the received coverage amount.

5 25. The electronic method of claim 23 further comprising:
reporting an amount to cut each frame stock piece to form
an appropriate frame assembly; and

reporting an amount that a louver assembly must be cut on
each side to fit a corresponding frame assembly.

10 26. The electronic method of claim 25 further comprising
reporting refinishing steps for refinishing the cut sides of the
louver assembly.

15 27. The electronic method of claim 23 further comprising
reporting frame mounting position information.

20 28. A container containing a collection of at least 25
differently sized pre-formed louver assemblies varying in width
from a minimum width to a maximum width and varying in height
from a minimum height to a maximum height, each louver assembly
having a top rail, a bottom rail, a first side rail and a second
side rail.